

From: Charles Coffing
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed Microsoft settlement.

In particular, my complaint is this: No part of the PFJ obligates Microsoft to release any information about file formats, even though undocumented Microsoft file formats form part of the Applications Barrier to Entry (see "Findings of Fact" ?20 and ? 39).

I use Open Source software exclusively at home, yet Microsoft still does indirectly pressure me to use their products, due to their proprietary and undocumented file formats, used by others. Microsoft makes it clear: Either use their products, or be cut off from the rest of the computing world. This ties many to the Microsoft monopoly. If neither the open source community nor other commercial software vendors have access to documentation of Microsoft's CURRENT file formats, the barrier of entry is huge.

The proposed settlement will do little to increase competition. It must be reworked to force Microsoft to open file formats, to both commercial and non-commercial entities.

Sincerely,
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